

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Nicholas W. Thayer, DOB: 1/6/81, formerly a resident of the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation in Sawyer County, Wisconsin, was sentenced on November 10, 2005, by Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to ten years in federal prison without parole. Thayer previously pleaded guilty to conspiring with other members of the Latin King Nation to distribute cocaine and crack cocaine on and around the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation from 1999 through 2003.

Thayer is the thirty-fifth defendant sentenced in this long-term investigation being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Bureau, and the Sawyer County Sheriff's Department. In sentencing Thayer, Chief Judge Crabb stated that the ten-year sentence reflected his role as a crack seller for the Latin King gang. While not a drug source, or leader in the gang, Chief Judge Crabb noted the important role Thayer played in selling crack on the Reservation for easy money and carrying a gun to intimidate drug customers, thereby playing a part in the gang violence on the Reservation.

The prosecution of these cases has been handled by Assistant United States Attorney John W. Vaudreuil.

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